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INFO RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE
RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT 0117
RUEHKB/AMEMBASSY BAKU 0012
RUEHCH/AMEMBASSY CHISINAU 0035
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KYIV 0741
RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI 0197
RUEHYE/AMEMBASSY YEREVAN 0027

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 000067

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DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/CARC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/15/2018

TAGS: [PREL](#) [GG](#) [RU](#) [FI](#)

SUBJECT: FINNISH RESPONSE - DEMARCHE ON POSSIBLE RUSSIAN
RECOGNITION OF ABKHAZIA, GEORGIA

REF: SECSTATE 14840

Classified By: POLCHIEF GREG THOME FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D)

(C) PolChief delivered subject demarche Feb. 15 to Antti Vanska, Deputy Director of the Finnish MFA Unit for Russia. The GoF views Russian unilateral recognition of Abkhazia as unlikely. Some Russian officials had suggested months ago that they might consider recognizing Abkhazia, "back when they still thought they could derail the Kosovo independence process," Vanska said. Now that the Kosovo process has advanced, however, this possibility has diminished. Russian FM Lavrov recently stated publicly that Russia would gain nothing by recognizing Abkhazia, Vanska said, adding that the GoF has heard suggestions along similar lines from Russian officials in private.
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